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From: Barry, Michael
Sent: Thur 9/24/2015 12:54:40 AM
Subject: Gold King Mine Alert 1 Notification Message - No anticipated impacts Silverton & Downstream

This is an “Alert 1” per the “Gold King Mine Stakeholders Alert and Notification Plan.” This alert level is for “a temporary release of treated mine wastewater that may be identifiable through operator knowledge or observation or direct measurements of turbidity, or pH in mine waste discharge, that could occur anywhere above the USGS Gauging Stations before Silverton.”

At approximately 6:00 pm this afternoon (9/23/2015), work on the containment ponds caused a short term overtopping of the containment dike with treated wastewater, resulting in turbidity in Cement Creek.

Turbidity is generally the result of particles within the water such as clay, silt, finely divided inorganic and organic matter, algae, microscopic organisms or, near mines, precipitated metals. Depending on the type of particle causing the turbidity, the concerns are different. Most often, microorganisms such as e. coli or giardia can cause gastrointestinal disease. For precipitated metals, these are relatively stable forms of a metal that have solidified out of the water and are relatively non-toxic unless inhaled or ingested in large amounts or repeatedly over a longer period of time.

It is unlikely that the turbidity

Impacts from this short duration release of treated mine wastewater are unlikely to remain in the river for any significant distance and unlikely to reach Silverton, La Plata County, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, San Juan County, New Mexico, the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe or the Navajo Nation.

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9/23-24 2015:

Deputy Incident Commander

Gold King Mine Response

Durango, CO

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